

CONCERNING THE COLLECTION

1 Cor. 16:1-4

Doctrinal and moral issues first...now important practical issues

1 Corinthians 16:1 *Collection for the saints:* purpose of meeting needs.

Relief fund for Christians in Jerusalem.

- ❖ Jerusalem very poor city.
- ❖ Center of religion for Jews
- ❖ Overpopulated
- ❖ Financial needs of city met by gifts of wealthy Jewish merchants
- ❖ Synagogues had welfare program for needy Jews.
- ❖ To become a Christian-- religious and political travesty
- ❖ Job for menial tasks almost impossible.

Motives for the collection:

1. Meet material needs of saints in Jerusalem
2. Oneness of spirit between Jewish and Gentile believers.

Use offering from Gentile Christians to bridge gap

1. For all churches.

1 Corinthians 16:1 ... *even so do ye.*

You do as I directed churches of Galatia to do.

Church's first financial responsibility is to own members. 2 Cor.8:1-5; 9:12-15; Phil 4:14-16; Gal 6:10; 1 Jn 3:17

2. Regular part of weekly services. ...*Upon the first day of the week*

Sunday. Different than Sabbath

Acts 20:7 Disciples came together on first day of week

Rev. 1:10 Lord's Day

Acts 2: Holy Spirit came upon believers on 1st day

Let every one of you: Not one person exempt

How much we give does not impress God!

What is left over impresses God. Amount of sacrifice impresses a holy God.

Mark 12:41-44.

Men get excited about amounts

Jesus gets excited about percentages!

As God hath prospered him. In direct proportion to what God has given Lev 14; Ezra 2:69 Acts 11:29 As *God hath prospered him* understood to be "above and beyond the tithe."

The tithe

 Tax

- Gen 41:34-35 20% of all the grain produced in period of 7 years set aside for famine.
- Lev 27:30 10% prescribed by God for Israel
- Num 18:21 Levites tithe on tithe received
- Dt. 14 second 10% to help defray expenses of national feasts and holidays.
- Dt. 14:28-29 Every 3rd year another 10% added to support Levite, stranger, fatherless, widow.
- Total annual tithe paid by children of Israel in tithes--23% of total income.
- Blessings and curses attached to tithe. Malachi 3:8 - 12

Bigger picture:

- Before actual command to tithe...Abraham and Jacob tithed.
- Purpose of tithing is to teach God's people to fear Him.
- Jesus tells Pharisees doing right by tithing

2... *That there be no gatherings when I come.*

Develop consistency of taking collection up

3. Done with integrity.

1 Corinthians 16:3 management of funds.

Expected for every church to entrust assets of ministry into hands of honest, blameless and godly men. Acts 4:35; 6:2-3.

Letters: credentials; Letters of recommendation

Them will I send your liberality unto Jerusalem: I will send your generous love gift with these men of credential to Jerusalem.

And if it be meet ... If think it best that I go with these men, then I will do so

Paul's focus--preaching and prayer.

Original manuscripts--no chapter breaks.

Doctrine and duty go hand in hand

Worship and works.

Mac: *God made all of His creation to give. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the clouds, the earth, the plants to give. And He also designed His supreme creation, man, to give. But fallen man is the most reluctant giver in all of God's creation.*

So What?

1. For us
2. Regular part of worship
3. Done with integrity

Believe in the resurrection? Then always abound in work of God

Application: give.